

Transportation

Adequate transportation is one of the keys of the development of any community or area. Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian land is located in the midst of the heart of the Southern Appalachian Region, which has been one of the slowest in the nation to develop an adequate system of roads.

Being a very popular tourism resort, Cherokee is visited by millions of people each year. It is unfortunate that some of the roads leading to this area are still in poor condition. Although road improvements are being made every year, the arteries into Cherokee are still narrow, crooked and unable to bear the volume of traffic which comes their way, especially during the summer.

Since the Indian people and communities on the Eastern Band of Cherokee land are very scattered within four counties (Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, and Swain) the transportation and communication between these communities, the governmental and service centers, (such as Tribal Government, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Hospital) as well as business centers is very important.

The only public transportation passing through Cherokee is the Continental Trailways Bus. By using this bus, Cherokee people can go to other places, such as Chattanooga and Waynesville. However, the schedule of this bus is very poor. There is also a local bus that travels over the Reservation area; this local transportation is managed by the Community Action Program, (ONAP). The Boy's Club contracts busing service for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' School for school transportation. This Club also offers a chartered bus service.